Mobile number portability

3225. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recently initiated a consultation process on Mobile Number Portability (MNP) under which subscribers can change service provider while retaining the same number;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and what is the current Status on the same;

(c) whether MNTL and BSNL have given their views on MNP and if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) whether any study in countries where MNP is permitted has been conducted and if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued a consultation paper on 22nd July, 2005 seeding views of various stakeholders.

(b) The written comments have been called by 6th January, 2006. The open house discussions were held in Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi.

(c) TRAI has received the comments of MTNL but BSNL has not given their veiws. MNTL has started that mobile number portability may not be considered for introduction at present.

(d) Yes, Sir. The number portability implementation in each country is unique. Call routing to ported mobile numbers planned or adopted in European countries vary considerably in techniques. From November 24, 2003, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) of United States of America mandated service providers to ensure portability if a subscriber moved between wireless carriers, or between a landline and wireless phone.